--- “Series of 1915” - 6 Cigars - 350 x 13 mm. - scanned at 60% scale ---

--- *recess* printed on *vertical* mesh wove paper - with 4½ mm *blue control numbering* - scanned at 50% scale ---

---

The catalogue would list the recess printed six cigar “Series of 1915” black strip as follows:

RG-559 - 6 cigars, black, on vertical mesh wove - 4½ mm blue control numbers

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★**RG-559 SP** - 6 cigars, black, *coarse roulette,* on *vertical* mesh wove, control number **0000000**

0000000 ○ RG-559 SP 6 cigars, black, coarse roulette, on *vertical* mesh wove, with seven blue-purple zeroes in each panel

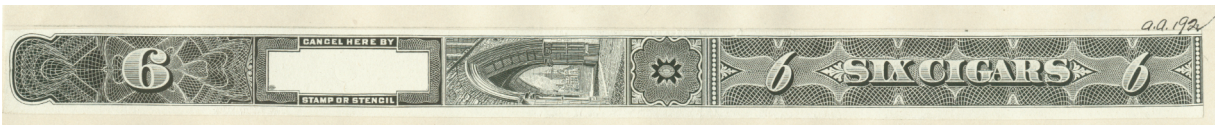
Lee Brandom lists a Plate Proof, and the above “Specimen” strip (with seven blue zeroes), but there is no indication that this strip was a production item, as he *does not* list any control-numbered production copies.

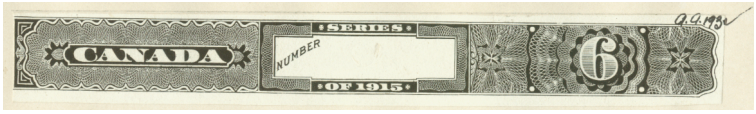
--- *recess printed* BLACK *die proof - without* an imprint - 357 x 13 mm - scanned at 70% scale ---

The Budget of 1908 had abolished the distinction between cigars made from *Foreign* and *Domestic* leaf tobacco with a unified tax of $ 2.00 per pound on cigars, while retaining the extra tax on ‘small size’ packages of less than ten cigars at a rate of $ 3.00 per pound.

In 1914, probably because of the onset of first world war, these rates were raised to $ 3.00 per pound on large packages, and to $ 4.00 per pound on packages of less than ten cigars.

The longer 225 mm. portion is initialled in black ink ‘*A.A. 192*’, and the shorter 132 mm. portion is initialled ‘*A.A. 193*’. The completed strip would measure 357 x 13 mm. Since both of these sections are initialled separately, it would seem that they are from separate dies and transfer rolls.





★**RG-559 DP** - 6 Cigars, recess printed black die proofs - the top 225 mm. illustration is inscribed ‘*A.A. 192*’, and the bottom 132 mm. illustration is inscribed ‘*A.A. 193*’ - the engraver’s initials, plus a work order?

--- the six Cigar Rolls, and the Plate, for RG-559 ---

[information from Chris Ryan]

In a memorandum to *D. Sims, Esq.* (Deputy Minister of National Revenue, Customs and Excise) dated June 14th 1944, *L. A. White* and *C.R. Coombs* record the final destruction of the CBN cigar rolls No. G-684 and G-685, for the "Series of 1915", six cigar, 350 x 13 mm strip.

In a similar memorandum, dated June 8th 1944, they record the destruction of plate No. 1 for the six cigar "Series of 1915" 350 x 13 mm strip. [This twenty impression plate was probably arranged - 1 x 20 strips - JBH].

In the memorandum to *D. Sims, Esq.* (Deputy Minister of National Revenue, Customs and Excise) dated June 14th 1944, *L. A. White* and *C.R. Coombs* record the destruction of the ABN die F-66 for the 350 x 13 mm. six cigar strip of the "Series of 1915 ".

File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RG_STAMPS \ 1915 \ 6 cigar - 350 mm strip],
in MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP 1525 Laser Jet,
October 17th 2013, JBH